

Looking to the future: Internet Librarian International 2018 A 20th birthday preview

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Internet Librarian International (ILI) will take place at Olympia, London on the 16th - 17th October, with workshops on the 15th October. UKeiG members benefit from a 25% discount on the full conference fee.

ILI is celebrating its twentieth birthday this year. When the conference began in 1999, the first dot com bubble was in full swing and sci-fi film *The Matrix* was released - but few could have predicted the incredible pace of change in information sharing and seeking behaviours that was to come. Back then, it was a novelty to be able to buy mobile phones in supermarkets, and SMS texting was just taking off. Google and Amazon were established, but not yet the global behemoths they are today. YouTube, Facebook, Wikipedia, smart phones and tablets were several years away and open access was yet to become a reality.

In putting together this year's conference programme, we've been mindful of this incredible pace of change - but the conference theme "Celebrating innovative libraries and info professionals" looks to the future, by sharing the many ways in which libraries and information professionals from all sectors are creating ground-breaking and imaginative services that deliver real impact.

Cultivating knowledge communities

ILI's keynote speakers will each contribute to this year's theme. Opening keynoter Katherine Skinner is the Executive Director of the Educopia Institute, a US-based non-profit run by a small group of individuals with a passion for building communities, connecting like-minded people, and using collective action to advance libraries, archives, museums, and publishers. In her keynote "Cultivating knowledge communities", Katherine will share stories about how impact becomes magnified when institutions band together - and encourage delegates to align our actions to make system-level changes that favour knowledge and memory.

Fantastic future? Predicting promise and peril

ILI's day two keynote will come from Martin Hamilton, the resident futurist at Jisc, the organisation that provides digital solutions for UK education and research. Martin's job is to keep an eye open for emerging trends and new technologies, and see what can be done to exploit and embrace them - or to mitigate against them. In his keynote, Martin will be taking an in-depth look at some of the major trends in digital technology - including AI, blockchain, data driven decision-making, and open research practice. How will they impact library customers, organisations and information work? And what's emerging from the research lab that will change knowledge and information services in the future?

Six tracks highlight new roles, new skills, new tools, and changing services

This year for the first time, ILI offers a track called "Inclusion and inspiration: libraries making a difference" and the important theme of inclusivity, diversity and equality features throughout the conference. Tech-led innovations feature throughout, and delegates can move freely between any of the six tracks:

FUTURE FOCUS: THE NEXT-GEN LIBRARY, THE NEXT-GEN LIBRARIAN

New roles, new skillsets and new tools that librarians are using to ensure they stay at the cutting edge - and how the profession itself can attract, support and nurture a diverse membership.

UNDERSTANDING USERS, USAGE AND UX

Looking at user driven change and how libraries are working with users to understand their behaviour and design services that meet - or exceed - users' requirements.

INCLUSION AND INSPIRATION: LIBRARIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

How are libraries and information professionals supporting social inclusion, engagement and equality?

CONTENT, COLLECTIONS, COLLABORATIONS

Collections, collaborations and curation, working with new formats and new audiences.

MAGICAL MARKETING

How are libraries influencing use and expanding audiences for their services and collections?

NEW SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

How and why the scholarly communications landscape is changing, and what this means for libraries and information professionals.

In addition, there are informal activities for all at ILI Extra, including one hour mini-workshops, a pop-up "Glass Room" workshop, live podcasting, and an invitation-only workshop specially designed to give new information professionals the chance to join in with the ILI experience.

So, while much has changed since the first conference twenty years ago, that pace of change can be expected to continue, driven by disruptive technology, new business models for information services, rapidly evolving user expectations, and political change. Over the years, we've seen librarians and information professionals rise to that quadruple challenge in many ways, large and small. It's been incredibly exciting to see so many inspiring and transformative projects showcased at the conference and we look forward to ILL delegates sharing many more innovations this year, and into the future.

Discounts for UKeIG Members

UKeIG members are entitled to claim a 25% discount on fees for the main conference using code UKeIG25 when registering. Discounts are also available for multiple delegates from the same organisation.

Internet Librarian International 2018

The Library Innovation Conference

16th & 17th October 2018, Workshops on 15th October 2018

Olympia, London

www.internet-librarian.com

ILL is co-located with Taxonomy Boot Camp London, now in its third year:

www.taxonomybootcamp.com/London

Further information from organisers, Information Today:

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